THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Seventh Five-Year Plan is still to be approved by the National Development Council and the Government.

Corruption in Agra Telephone Exchange

539. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press items appearing in the 'Blitz' dated the 8th June, 1985 wherein it has been stated that there has been corruption on a very large scale in the Telephone Exchange at Agra;

(b) if so, how far the report that Telephone Exchange Authorities charge money in the form of bribe ranging from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2000 for installation of new telephone and that most of the time the telephones are lying dead;

(c) whether Government propose to constitute a committee to inquire into the working of this Telephone Exchange; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific instance has come to notice regarding taking of bribe by telephone authorities for installation of telephones.

It is not correct to state that most of the time the telephones are dead and not working.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Since adequate maintenance and vigilance set up exist at Agra Telephones, no need for setting up of committee is felt.

Representation from Jetpur Dyeing Industries

540. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for allotment of a quota of kerosene from Jetpur (Gujarat) Dyeing Industries, a section of which has been shifted over to "Pigment process", in order to avoid water pollution, which requires use of kerosene;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a ban on the use of kerosene for industrial purpose;

(c) what is the loss incurred per litre on kerosene used for domestic consumption; and

(d) whether Government considered the proposals for differential prices of kerosene for domestic and industrial consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) No such representation has been received.

(b) Kerosene (Restriction on Use) Order 1966, provides that no person shall use or consume kerosene for any purpose other than cooking or illumination or both except that a State Government may by special order permit any person to use kerosene for such purpose as it may consider to be essential. This Order is, however, not applicable to the Defence Forces.

(c) The ex-storage price (or basic ceiling selling price) of kerosene is subsidised to the extent of Rs. 1066.79 per KL with effect from the 26th March, 1985.